

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, WB, PGOV
SUBJ: BERLIN'S ELECTRIC POWER NEEDS

REF: A) USBERLIN A-133; B) USBERLIN 1457

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (IHK) HAS CRITICIZED SENAT'S HANDLING OF PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF NECESSARY NEW POWER PLANTS AND HAS URGED SENAT TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE DESPITE LOCAL OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING WITH PRESS FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BERLIN ECONOMIC TOPICS, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF BERLIN IHK PRESSED THE SENAT TO GET ON WITH PLANS FOR BUILDING THE NEXT 600 MEGAWATTS (MW) OF ELECTRIC-POWER PLANT WHICH IN EXPERTS' VIEW IS NEEDED IN TWO 300-MW BLOCKS IN 1980 AND 1982 RESPECTIVELY. (AS WE HAVE REPORTED, PLANS ARE TIED UP BY CITIZEN-GROUP OPPOSITION ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS BY CONSEQUENT RESISTANCE OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, WHOSE CONSENT FOR CONSTRUCTION PLANS IS REQUIRED BY LAW, OF DISTRICT (SPANDAU) IN WHICH PLANT(S) WOULD BE LOCATED.)

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3. IHK OFFICIALS NOTED THAT INDUSTRY WILL AVOID BERLIN INVESTMENT IF FUTURE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IS NOT ASSURED. THEY SAID CITY WILL BECOME BLACKMAILABLE BY GDR FOR MOOTED FUTURE POWER SUPPLY BEYOND 1985 FROM EAST OR FROM FRG IF SENAT CANNOT PUT THROUGH THE PRESENT PROJECT IN GOOD TIME, THUS REVEALING DEGREE OF BERLIN'S FUTURE DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE POWER. CHAMBER COUNSELED SENAT NOT TO ACCEPT "DISTRICT AUTARCHY" OF CITY DISTRICTS WHICH WANT FACILITIES SUCH AS POWER PLANTS TO BE LOCATED IN SOME OTHER DISTRICT, AND NOT TO BACK DOWN IN FACE OF RESISTANCE TO ITS PLANS.

4. COMMENT: CHAMBER'S REMARKS, AND BERLINER MORGENPOST'S RATHER SENSATIONAL FRONT-PAGE AND EDITORIAL TREATMENT OF THEM, ARE USEFUL IN BRINGING THE POWER-PLANT PROBLEM TO A HEAD. FOR OVER SIX MONTHS, SENAT HAS FLOUNDERED ABOUT OVER LOCAL RESISTANCE WHICH DEVELOPED AGAINST THE RATIONAL LOCATION OF 600-MW PLANT AT SITE OF PRESENT OBERHAVEL POWER PLANT IN SPANDAU, INFLUENCED NO DOUBT BY THE GROWING HABIT OF GIVING IN TO BUEGERINITIATIVE. ACCORDING TO EXPERTS, TIME IS AT HAND FOR START OF PRE-CONSTRUCTION OWRK IF FIRST 300-MW BLOCK OF NEW POWER IS TO BE READY WHEN NEEDED. GOVERNING MAYOR IS SEIZED OF PROBLEM AND THERE ARE SIGNS SENAT IS RETURNING TO ITS ORIGINAL PLAN TO BUILD BOTH BLOCKS AT SAME LOCATION, THUS ALLOWING ADDITION OF A CENTRAL-HEATING FACILITY CAPABLE OF HEATING SOME 40,000 DWELLINGS WITH CONSEQUENT ENERGY SAVINGS AND POLLUTION REDUCTION, EVEN IF PLANT SITE MUST BE MOVED INTO SPANDAU FOREST ALONGSIDE THE WALL.DAVIS

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